

WROXHAM AND DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT THE WROXHAM HUB ON TUESDAY 9th May 2017

Meeting opened 2pm

Present: John Long, Sue Badger, Corrie Mould, Maggie Richardson, Margaret Cobbold, Di Stagg, Jane Monks, Jan Barrington.

1. **Apologies:** Mary Long
2. **Minutes of the last meeting,** held on 14th March 2017 were read, agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising:** No matters arising.
4. **AGM:**
 - a) Officer and committee changes: Marlene has stepped down, and Sue has assumed her role as Membership Secretary; Jan has joined the committee.
 - b) Membership renewals: At the time of the committee there were 66 renewables/new members. It has been agreed that next year the membership renewal form, along with the Agenda and Treasurer's report should be sent electronically. Furthermore, the U3A sort code and account number should be included on the renewal form so that people can pay by BACS. This is heightened by the closure of Hoveton banks and the ensuing nuisance of banking cheques. This will also have a considerable saving in stamps and stationery. The possibility of gift-aid was raised, but this needs to be checked out to see if Wroxham & District U3A have the necessary charitable status to support this scheme. Sue will contact the Third Age Trust to clarify this.
 - c) Future proofing: While not part of the AGM per se, John voiced concern that, further down the line, the committee will retire contemporaneously and not be sufficiently replaced. Recruiting new members to the committee was discussed: Sue suggested that new members ought to be approached, and Di thought that the idea of shadowing serving Officers might be helpful; it had been suggested by Jeff Carter, the Third Age Trust East Anglian representative, at the recent Norfolk Network meeting, that members who were not on the committee could be invited to join in, if it was found they had skills or experience which would benefit the U3A group. An appeal for new committee members will be placed in the newsletter.
 - d) Website webmaster: John has expressed the desire to step down, but will 'hold the fort' until a replacement can be found. Like above, an appeal will be placed in the newsletter, although this might be extended to recruiting a grandchild of a member, who might welcome the experience of running an established website, under John's guidance.
5. **Summer Outing:** 27 people have pledged to attend, but no money has passed hands as yet. Sue will construct an advert for the website, the newsletter and the GMs, and invitations will be extended to friends, initially, and local U3A groups (like Hickling) a little later, if numbers remain low.

6. . **Correspondence:** The Third Age Trust sent a copy of minutes of its AGM. It also sent publicity of 2 events: The Globe Experience, advertising numerous tours for U3A groups of 15+ members, (and details of alternative tours if numbers do not reach 15), and Wildlife Wetland talks and activities around the country (but none near East Anglia); the details of events will be placed on display at the GM, as well as being reported in the newsletter.
7. **Reports:** a) Treasurer: Margaret reported that the balance at the start of April was £1456.22. The bank balance was £1277.00; further income was £625.00; expenditure was £446.00, bringing the balance to £1456.22.

At this point Corrie was asked to leave the meeting, since the need to discuss the double booking for GMs exposed a conflict of interest (Corrie being part of the U3A and Hub church committees). Although the overall balance looks relatively healthy, this concealed the fact that, annually, last year the U3A made a loss of about £80, and that the expenditure on the GMs was not being covered by the entrance fees, and as such, the double booking to secure sufficient car parking space needed to be reconsidered. The Hub is too small (both in seating and car-parking capacities) for successful GMs; the idea of raising the GM fees was not accepted. Venue alternatives are the Wroxham church hall or the Hoveton Village Hall. The latter generally found more favour, and the cost of booking this was £8.50 per hour. It needs to be investigated as to whether GM dates are available, and if so, booking will commence from September. (Corrie was invited back into the meeting at this point.)

b) Membership Secretary: It has been found that a few non-members are attending GMs and Interest Groups for longer than the 'taster' 2-sessions allowed. It was also pointed out that, in a partnership, the 'second' partner appeared to be receiving the benefits of the 'first' partner without joining, thus saving £15. The onus is on the group leaders to ensure that people attending their groups are bona fide U3A members, and if they are not, should be encouraged to join, or barred from the group. An up-dated membership list will be regularly circulated to group leaders so they know which people need to be 'encouraged to join'. Group leaders could also ask to see the membership card.

c) Magazine Secretary Sue pointed out that the first database submission for the Third Age Matters magazine is very soon; those who have not renewed their subscription will be excluded from the list.

d) Speaker Organiser Maggie requested that the format of the GM was altered, so that the Speaker could present first, and notices be given second, during tea break. It was agreed that this format would begin with the next GM.

Reports from Groups. Ann den Engelse will be shortly resigning as the leader of the History Group, and no replacement looks likely, at this stage. No other group report was forthcoming because of time.

8. AOB. No issues raised. Next meeting Tuesday 11th July, 2pm. Meeting closed 3.50.